

What is claimed is:

1. An improved cooking tong apparatus for use with a grill comprising:
  - a first tong element having a first end and a second end;
  - a first jaw attached to the first tong element at the first end thereof, the first  
jaw having a plurality of spaced apart tines;
  - 5 a first handle attached to the first tong element at the second end thereof;
  - a second tong element pivotally attached to the first tong element at a first  
pivot point, the second tong element having first and second ends, the  
second end of the second tong element having a bar engaging bore  
therein;
  - 10 a first pivotal attachment means for pivotally attaching the first and second  
tong elements at the first pivot point;
  - a second jaw attached to the second tong element at the first end thereof, the  
second jaw having a plurality of spaced apart tines, wherein the first  
and second jaws are disposed in opposing gripping engagement to each  
15 other so that the first and second jaws open and close as the first and  
second tong elements are pivoted about the first pivot point;
  - a third tong element pivotally attached to the first tong element at a second  
pivot point disposed between the first handle and the first pivot point,  
the third tong element having a first end and a second end;
  - 20 an actuating bar attached to the first end of the third tong element, the  
actuating bar slidably engaging the bar engaging bore in the second

tong element and disposed therethrough;

*a* a second pivotal attachment means for attaching the ~~second~~ <sup>first</sup> and third tong elements at the second pivot point; and

25 a second handle attached to the third tong element at the second end thereof,  
wherein the second handle is disposed opposite the first handle and  
wherein the actuating bar attached to the third tong element slidably  
engages the bar engagement bore of the second tong element as the first  
and second handles are pivoted about the second pivot point such that  
30 the first and second jaws open and close.

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av* 2.

The cooking tong apparatus of claim 1 wherein the tines of the first and second jaws are properly spaced and sized to fit between standard grill cross-members.

3. The cooking tong apparatus of claim 2 wherein the first and second handles lie in a substantially horizontal plane.

4. The cooking tong apparatus of claim 3 wherein the first and second handles each further comprise a finger receiving aperture defined therein.

5. The cooking tong apparatus of claim 4 wherein the first and second tong elements pivot about the first pivot point in a substantially vertical plane, opening and closing the first and second jaws in a vertical direction..

6. The cooking tong apparatus of claim 5 wherein pivotal attachment means comprises rivets.

7. The cooking tong apparatus of claim 6 wherein the tines of the first and second jaws are inwardly curved and substantially parallel.

8. A cooking tong apparatus for use with a grill having spaced apart, parallel members forming a grilling surface, the apparatus comprising:

- a first tong element;
- a first jaw attached to one end of the first tong element and having a plurality  
5 of spaced apart tines forming a first food gripping surface;
- a second tong element having a bar engaging bore extending therethrough proximal one end thereof;
- a second jaw attached to the distal end of the second tong element and having a plurality of spaced apart tines forming a second food gripping surface;
- 10 first pivot means pivotally connecting the first and second tong elements at a first pivot point so that the first and second food gripping surfaces of the first and second jaws, respectively are disposed in opposing gripping engagement to each other, the first and second jaws opening and closing as the first and second tong elements pivot about the first  
15 pivot point;
- a third tong element having an actuating bar portion at one end thereof;
- second pivot means pivotally connecting the first and third tong elements at a second pivot point, the actuating bar portion slidably engaging and extending through the bar engaging bore in the second tong element;
- 20 and
- handle means attached to the first and third tong elements for pivoting the first and third tong elements about the second pivot point so that the

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actuating bar portion of the third tong element slidably engages the bar engagement bore of the second tong element as the first and second tong elements are pivoted about the second pivot point to effect selected opening and closing of the first and second jaws.

9. The cooking tong apparatus of claim 8 wherein the distances between the spaced apart tines of the first and second jaws are determined so that the tines fit between the grill members.

10. The cooking tong apparatus of claim 9 wherein the handle means comprises first and second handles connected to the first and third tong elements, respectively, and wherein the first and second handles are disposed substantially in a horizontal plane when the tines of the first and second jaws are disposed between or  
5 near the grill member so that the first and second jaws open and close by movement of same vertically.

11. An improved cooking tong apparatus for handling a food item disposed on the cross members of a grill comprising:

jaw means for selectively gripping and releasing the food item on the grill, the

jaw means having a plurality of tines that are properly spaced apart and

5 sized to fit between the grill cross-members; and

handle means, connected to the jaw means, for selectively opening and closing the jaw means.

12. The cooking tong apparatus of claim 11 wherein the jaw means comprises first and second jaws disposed in opposing, gripping engagement to each other.

13. The cooking tong apparatus of claim 12 wherein the handle means comprises first and second handles.

14. The cooking tong apparatus of claim 13 further comprising:

a first tong element operably connecting the first handle to the first jaw;

a second tong element operably connecting the second handle to the second

jaw; and

5 a pivotal attachment means for pivotally attaching the first and second tong elements, wherein selected movement of the first and second handles pivots the first and second tong elements about the pivotal attachment

means, causing the first and second jaws to selectively open and close.

15. The cooking tong apparatus of claim 13 further comprising:

a first tong element operably connecting the first handle to the first jaw;

a second tong element operably connected to the second jaw;

a first pivotal attachment means for pivotally attaching the first and second  
5 tong elements;

a third tong element operably connected to the second handle;

a second pivotal attachment means for pivotally attaching the second and third  
tong elements; and

means for engaging the second and third tong elements, wherein selected

10 movement of the first and second handles pivots the second and third  
tong elements about the second pivotal attachment means, causing the  
second tong element to pivot with respect to the first tong element about  
the first pivotal attachment means to selectively open and close the first  
and second jaws.

16. An improved cooking tong apparatus for grasping a food item on a grill having a plurality of parallel grill cross members, the cooking tong apparatus comprising:

- 5 a first jaw having a plurality of spaced apart tines properly sized and spaced to fit between the grill cross members;
- a second jaw disposed opposite the first jaw; and
- handle means connected to the first and second jaws for closing the first and second jaws into gripping engagement so that the food item may be grasped between the first and second jaws and removed from the grill.

17. The cooking tong apparatus of claim 16 wherein the second jaw has a plurality of spaced apart tines properly sized and spaced to fit between the grill cross members.

18. The cooking tong apparatus of claim 17 wherein the tines of the first and second jaws are inwardly curved and substantially parallel.

19. The cooking tong apparatus of claim 18 wherein the handle mean comprises first and second handles.



20. The cooking tong apparatus of claim 19 wherein the handle means further comprises a pivotal attachment means for pivotally attaching the first and second handles about a pivot point.